



science & innovation

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PRESS RELEASE: STAFF AND SUPERVISOR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME WILL EQUIP SUPERVISORS WITH THE SKILLS TO MENTOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF DEGREE HOLDERS

The Technological Higher Education Network South Africa (THENSA) has long been a proponent of supervisor programmes which capacitate academic staff with the skills and expertise required to bring out the best in their graduate students. It is common knowledge that the supervisor is crucial to the successful academic experience of a graduate student. However, as the demands made of the university have increased over the decades, encompassing the responsibility of addressing unemployment, inequality and job creation, the role of the supervisor can be difficult to define. Not only are they expected to nurture the scholarly needs of their students, they are also expected to provide non-academic support, advice on professional development and ensure their graduate students become valuable contributors to South Africa's knowledge economy.

In partnership with the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), THENSA will host the first cohort for the Staff, Supervisor Enhancement Programme from 23 – 24 February at the Southern Sun O.R. Tambo International Airport Hotel in Johannesburg, Gauteng. This two-day residential programme will look at different models and systems of supervision, explore institutional policy and procedures and unpack the supervisor-student relationship further. The goal of the Staff, Supervisor Enhancement Programme is to provide academics the space to engage further with supervision as an academic and professional practice, locating their experience within a broader national and institutional context and considering the various kinds of students they would have to supervise.

The Staff, Supervisor Enhancement Programme will be offered to 150 potential or existing supervisors in the fields of Science, Technology, and Innovation, with the subsequent workshops taking place in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Additional online networks and Communities of Practice in Supervision will be established to provide academics with long-term support beyond the programme.



In conclusion, the Staff, Supervisor Enhancement Programme will provide academics with the opportunity to apply their developing approach and understanding of the supervisor-student relationship to their institution's policy on postgraduate supervision. The goals of the programme are aligned with the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Research and Development Strategy of the DSI.



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